



Contents	Page
Job opportunity in South Wales	1
Natur am Byth! Project: High Brown Fritillary	2
Planting for Butterflies, Moths, Bees and more	2
Introducing our Species Champions	3
No Mow May – links to pass on	3
What's Flying Now?	4
Reminder to Record Sightings	4
Printed habitat management leaflets to order	5
Frits About update	5

Dear All

Welcome to the Wales Newsletter. Spring brings an exciting flurry of newly emerged butterflies and moths – read a round-up on page 4.

The joy of seeing Brimstone butterflies in Spring was the inspiration for an article in Butterfly Magazine [‘Be More Brimstone’](#), about how vital it is for us to find some joy in the midst of the gloom that it's easy to feel in the face of the destruction of so much of our wildlife.

Of course we must also take action and this edition features ways we can all take part, contributing to biological records, planting for pollinators and allowing lawns and verges to bloom with wild flowers. The BC team in Wales is working hard, with volunteers and collaborating with other organisations, to recover species like the High Brown Fritillary and to connect people to nature.

We hope you'll enjoy reading the newsletter, we'd love to hear any comments via the [Wales staff team email](#).

Best regards,

The Butterfly Conservation Wales Team



Brimstone, Ffos Las: Maggie James

Work with us!

Exciting job opportunity for an experienced Conservation Officer, covering South Wales.

12-month contract, closing date 9th May.

[Conservation Officer Wales Job Description](#)

Please read the full information on our [Jobs page](#) and scroll down right down for full details.



We're looking for an experienced person who wants a new and exciting opportunity to move forward Butterfly Conservation's new Saving Butterflies and Moths 2021-2026 Strategy in Wales.

[Read more here](#)

Natur am Byth!

Butterfly Conservation is proud to be a core partner in [Natur am Byth!](#), taking the lead in the conservation efforts for the High Brown Fritillary – the UK's most endangered butterfly.

The [High Brown Fritillary](#) has declined 96% in its distribution and in Wales only a single colony remains. The species is now restricted to the Old Castle Down and Cwm Alun area in the Vale of Glamorgan, leaving it highly vulnerable to extinction.

Natur am Byth! is Wales' flagship Green Recovery project, uniting nine environmental charities with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to deliver the country's largest heritage and outreach programme to save species from extinction and reconnect people to nature.

Our Natur am Byth! team in the Vale of Glamorgan is [Dot Williams](#) and [Richard Smith](#).

Part of the project is to work with the Commoners on grazing and they visited Fairwood on Gower to find out about no-fence grazing. The team has also visited many schools and community events to involve local people with protecting this special butterfly.



High Brown Fritillary pair_Cwm Alun 2020_Paul Dunn

Group of Vale Commoners' visiting Fairwood Common 2022_Dot Williams



Thanks to National Lottery Heritage Fund, Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government for funding.

[Read more here](#)

Planting for Butterflies, Moths, Bees

.... and other insects of course! Connect with nature, be inspired and help moths and butterflies thrive. A wealth of ideas for planting in gardens, pots and parks for pollinators:

- Our leaflet [Gardening for Butterflies and Moths](#)
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership's [Bee Friendly](#) Initiative has lots of guides including new bilingual posters on what to plant for your Balcony or Yard, in your Garden and in Community Spaces
- The Botanic Garden of Wales' bilingual [Pollinating Plants booklet](#) helps you choose plants to attract pollinating insects, based on their research.
- Meet Butterfly Conservation's [Secret Gardener](#) and explore their blog
- On our main web pages Alan Titchmarsh gives tips on planting [Pit Stops for Pollinators](#).



Introducing our Species Champions

The [Species Champions](#) project, set up here by [Wales Environment Link \(WEL\)](#) connects Members of the Senedd (MS) to threatened species found in their constituency, so they can speak up for them in the Senedd and beyond.



A big thank you to the MS's who have agreed to champion these four species of butterfly and moth, all threatened by habitat loss and change:



Jane Hutt is our Species Champion for the High Brown Fritillary. She's the Labour MS for the Vale of Glamorgan.

[High Brown Fritillary Species Briefing](#)



Mabon ap Gwynfor is our Species Champion for the Welsh Clearwing moth. He's the Plaid Cymru MS for Dwyfor Meirionnydd.

[Welsh Clearwing Species Briefing](#)



Russell George is our Species Champion for the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary. He's the Conservative MS for Montgomeryshire.

[Pearl-bordered Fritillary Species Briefing](#)



Mike Hedges is our Species Champion for the Small Blue Butterfly. He's the Labour MS for Swansea East.

[Small Blue Species Briefing.](#)

Photos from the top: MSs 2021_WEL; High Brown Fritillary; Welsh Clearwing; Pearl-bordered Fritillary; Small Blue

[Find out more](#)

It's No Mow May – pass it on!

Here are the links to share if you'd like to spread the word before the mowers and trimmers get whirring in earnest!

[Plantlife's No Mow May](#) campaign

Butterfly Conservation's guide to creating butterfly-friendly urban grassland

[Building Sites for Butterflies](#)

[Creu Safleoedder Iles Glöynnod Byw](#)

[Read more about managing urban grassland](#)



What's flying now?

Look out for:

Pearl-bordered Fritillaries (*right*) have been seen at several sites including our [Eyarth Rocks](#) Reserve near Ruthin and the National Trust's [Cwm Soden](#) in Pembrokeshire.

They've also been reported in Ceredigion and Montgomeryshire (see Frits About report below).

Marsh Fritillary larvae have been reported basking at some sites in South Wales



A skip through Facebook groups for the past week or so found these sightings, many of which are early:

- At **Merthyr Mawr** near Bridgend on 22nd April : [Grizzled Skipper](#), Green-veined White, [Emperor Moth](#), [Ruby tiger moth](#), Mint moth (24th)
- At [Kenfig NNR](#): Small Blue, Orange-tip, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Peacock, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Wall and Small Copper
- At [Llanymyech Rocks](#): Brimstone, Orange-tip, Small Copper, Grizzled and [Dingy Skipper](#), Holly Blue, [Green Hairstreak](#), Speckled Wood and Small Whites
- [Anania funebris](#) - has been seen at Y Graig, Llantrisant

Join in!

These reports were mostly found on [Butterfly Conservation North Wales Forum](#) and [Butterfly Conservation South Wales Forum](#). Anyone interested in butterflies and moths can apply to join these closed Facebook groups, which are administered by our Branches. You will be warmly welcomed and can also get help with identification.

Recording

A kind reminder to keep records of your moth and butterfly sightings:

- species
- number seen
- life stage (eg adult/larva),
- location (grid reference if you can),
- date
- and, if you have one, a confirmatory photo

You can send them in using the [iRecord](#) App on your phone (which generates the location) or as a list (by December) to the County Recorders for [Butterflies](#) (scroll down!) and [Moths](#).



Rosy Marsh moth, Borth Bog_Dave Grundy

Thank you!

[Read more here](#)

Habitat Management Leaflets Printed

This set of three **specialist leaflets** with advice on how to manage land for threatened butterflies and moths is now also available in a limited supply of paper copies in both English and Welsh.

They are **aimed at land managers/owners** of these special habitats and the **conservation experts** advising them.

[Daear Noeth](#)

[Rhedyn i Löynnod Byw](#)

[Britheg y Gors](#)

[Bare Ground for Butterflies and Moths](#)

[Bracken for Butterflies](#)

[Marsh Fritillary – Managing grassland](#)

To order, please email [<Wales@butterfly-conservation.org>](mailto:Wales@butterfly-conservation.org) with your postal address and position, saying how many you need - stocks are limited.

Find all Wales leaflets here

Taflenni



Frits About Update 2022

Richard Smith writes:

Resourcing for Frits About is in abeyance at the moment.

Meanwhile there have been a few reports of basking Marsh Fritillary larvae at sites in South Wales and Pearl-bordered Fritillary reported on the wing in Ceredigion (4 last week) and Montgomeryshire (1 this week).

It is hoped that volunteers can be organised to monitor Marsh Fritillary and other Frits in early summer.



High Brown Fritillary: Richard Smith

Thanks to the following for supplying their photos:

*High Brown Fritillary on Thistle (title bar): Ben Williams; Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Eyarth: Tom Knight
Marsh Fritillary: George Tordoff; Mower: Phil Sterling. Other details are in text above*

Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England and Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)
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